

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04459 011441Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 SMI-01 EPA-01 CEQ-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5043
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIS, SENV, PE, IWC
SUBJECT: WHALING IN PERU: MEMBERSHIP IN IWC

REF: LIMA 3099

SUMMARY: RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT PERU IS MORE FAVORABLY INCLINED THAN EARLIER TO JOIN IWC. DECISION MAY BE MADE DURING FIRST HALF OF JUNE.
END SUMMARY.

1. ECON OFF MAY 25 ASKED FISHERIES VICE MINISTER CARDENAS IF GOP HAD CONCLUDED ITS STUDY REGARDING PERUVIAN ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (PARA 4, REFTEL). CARDENAS SAID THAT FINAL DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE AND THAT HE WAS STILL AWAITING A REPORT FROM THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF HIS MINISTRY BEFORE HE COULD MAKE
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RECOMMENDATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY REGARDING PERUVIAN MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID THAT BASED ON TALKS WITH SOME PEOPLE WITHIN THE MINISTRY HE THOUGHT THAT THE RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT SHOULD PERU DECIDE TO JOIN THE IWC, IT WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT SOME ARRANGMENT WITH CHILE AND ECUADOR, CO-MEMBERS WITH PERU IN THE

PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION (PSPC), TO RESOLVE ANY CONFLICTS THAT MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH ORGANIZATIONS MAY CAUSE. CARDENAS SAID THAT HE EXPECTED HIS MINISTRY'S REPORT WOULD BE READY SOMETIME BEFORE MID-JUNE.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH CARDENAS, ECON OFF RAISES SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER- SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DE LA PEIDRA AND MARITIME SOVEREIGNTY OFFICER HECTOR CABADA. DE LA PIEDRA RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH US VIEWS ISSUE OF WHALE CONSERVATION, BUT DEMURRED ON GIVING OFFICIAL RESPONSE ON GROUNDS THAT OFFICE OF MARITIME SOVEREIGNTY HAS ACTON ON SUBJECT WITHIN MINISTRY.

3. ECON OFF BEGAN MEETING WITH CABADA BY GIVING HIM EXCERPTS ON WHALE CONSERVATION FORM PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE ON ENVIRONMENT. CABADA RESPONDED SYMPATHETICALLY TO ECON OFF'S DEMARCHE AND SAID THAT HE AGREED IT WOULD BE IN PERU'S INTEREST TO JOIN IWC AND PARTICIPATE IN COMMISSION'S WHALE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. HE INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT GOP WOULD MAKE FAVORABLE DECISION REGARDING IWC MEMBERSHIP AND THAT AT MMINIMUM PERU WOULD AGAIN SEND OBSERVERS TO IWC MEETING IN AUSTRALIA, JUNE 20-24. HE NOTED THAT OBSERVERS COULD DISCUSS PERUVIAN MEMBERSHIP WITH IWC OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME. IN ADDITION, CABADA SAID THAT GOP IS ALSO CONSIDERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOLDING TALKS WITH CHILE AND ECUADOR WITH A VIEW TO MODIFYING THOSE CONDITIONS OF PSPC MEMBERSHIP THAT CONSTITUTE AN OBSTACLE TO JOINING IWC. HE INDICATED THE GOP WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON ITS COURSE OF ACTION PRIOR TO START OF ANNUAL IWC MEETING.

4. COMMENT: FACT THAT GOP OFFICIALS COULD NOT GIVE US DEFINITE ASSURANCES THAT PERU WILL JOIN IWC IS INDICATION GOP IS STILL OF TWO MINDS ON QUESTION. THERE APPARENTLY IS STRONG ELEMENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT WHICH DOES NOT BELIEVE PERU WILL BENEFIT FROM IWC MEMBERSHIP. GOP AWARENESS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN SAVING THE WHALES MAY HAVE POSITIVE BEARING ON FINAL GOP DECISION.
DEAN

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